

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The National Marine Fisheries Service announced today that it is making \$100 million of disaster-relief aid available to West Coast salmon fishermen.

The funds will be distributed by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to fishermen and related businesses affected by this year's closure of the ocean salmon fishing season off California, Oregon and Washington.

Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) released the following statement:

"This is the second straight year that California's salmon season has been closed. These relief funds offer a small reprieve to the devastation that our fishermen and coastal businesses have experienced.

"It's a credit to the Central Coast fishing industry that it voluntarily supported the season's closure. The fishing community should not be punished for the mismanagement and neglect brought about over the last seven years by the Bush administration.

"The salmon collapse is another sign that we desperately need to reform our ocean management policies and allow regional experts to put their knowledge to use. My ocean reform bill, Oceans-21, is more important now than ever."

For more information, visit <http://www.psmfc.org> .

#